

This is how it works....

By Carl Ledbetter

Each fall, UCEMC representatives will visit your high school to explain the rules and guidelines for the contest. Dates for the visit vary to comply with each school's schedule.

Students receive a Washington Youth Tour resource booklet with the contest rules, information about UCEMC's \$1,000 educational scholarship for the winning entries, and guidelines for other awards, including the statewide scholarship.

The resource booklet features the short story that was worth a \$3,000 statewide scholarship to its writer. Students are encouraged to study the winning story for some tips on developing a similar style for their entry.

Your entry...

The composition must not exceed 900 words.

No names or any form of identification are allowed on the cover page or within the story. Each school will assign a code number to each entry. The corresponding student name is known *only* to the school. After a winning story has been selected, the code number is given to the school and at that time, the identity of the winning student(s) will be revealed to UCEMC. Five UCEMC students will win a trip to Washington on the WYT and the \$1,000 scholarship.

If you win...

In May, TECA hosts an orientation dinner for these students and their parent(s) or legal guardian. Approximately 60 students and their families from the Middle Tennessee area attend. This is an opportunity for students and families to learn about the trip and make new friends in advance of the WYT.

IMPORTANT

Attending this orientation is *mandatory*! The orientation dinner takes priority over sports programs or any other activities. Should a student not attend the orientation they will *forfeit* their scholarship and cannot participate in the WYT.

Getting there....

You will travel to Washington on one of four state-of-the-art Anchor-Trailway, buses. Bus pickup is at the Star Motor Inn in Cookeville. Four video monitors are located throughout the bus. To make the ride more enjoyable, there is a selection of movies for your entertainment and each seat has outlets for charging your electronics.

At the end of the WYT, we will depart Reagan International Airport for our flight home. Your parent or legal guardian must be ready to meet you at the Nashville

International Airport at the designated time. Be sure to check with the UCEMC chaperone prior to leaving the airport with your family.

LOOKING BACK AT THE 2018 YOUTH TOUR ITINERARY

FRIDAY---Meet at Star Motor Inn in Cookeville and board your bus. You will receive a backpack loaded with goodies and five special T-shirts for the week's many adventures. After all buses are loaded with our delegates we'll depart and enjoy some get-acquainted games on the bus. We'll arrive in Staunton, Virginia for the night.

SATURDAY---Wear your designated T-shirt for that day. Visit Monticello, the home of President Thomas Jefferson. Visit the National Museum for the Marine Corps at Quantico, Virginia. Arrive in Washington and pose for group photos at the Capitol. We'll visit the memorials; Korean War Veterans Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. Depart following tour and arrive at Crystal City Marriott around 10 PM.

SUNDAY---Student led devotional, visit Smithsonian Museums attend a play at Toby's Dinner Theater in Maryland--Disney's Newsies.

MONDAY---**NRECA YOUTH DAY**, approximately 2,000 students attend. Lunch at USDA Cafe, visit Holocaust Museum. Arlington National Cemetery, Changing of the Guard and wreath-laying ceremony. Dinner at Union Station.

TUESDAY---Breakfast and tour of Mt. Vernon. Visit Spy Museum, Visit Washington National Cathedral. Attend Sunset Parade at Lincoln Memorial.

WEDNESDAY---Visit Capitol Hill, photo-op with senators and representatives. Photo of our group to be on the cover of The Tennessee Magazine. Tour U.S. Capitol and Library of Congress. Return to hotel for the All-States Dinner and Dance or spend the evening playing games.

THURSDAY---**Homeward bound!**

Depart Reagan International Airport for Nashville.

Meet your family at the Nashville International Airport.

Tell your friends good-bye and head home exhausted but exhilarated!

Fall asleep knowing that you have made many close friends for years to come.

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